

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Creator: Carla James

Field Office: Stillwater Field Office

Lead Office: Stillwater Field Office

Case File/Project Number: NVN-83929 federal geothermal lease

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): H. Other. (3) Conducting preliminary hazardous materials assessments and site investigations, site characterization studies and environmental monitoring. Included are siting, construction, installation and/or operation of small monitoring devices such as wells, particulate dust counters and automatic air or water samples.

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2014-0017-CX

Project Name: Wild Rose Geothermal Project Area

Project Description: Ormat wants to determine the yield, water quality, and the local aquifer parameters by pump testing and sampling an old abandoned well located approximately one mile southwest of the current production wells at the Wild Rose Geothermal Power Plant in Gabbs Valley in Mineral County, Nevada. The well can be accessed via a dirt road extending south from the main Rawhide Road – see attached map. No road construction or surface disturbance would be necessary to access and test the well. Test equipment will consist of a 4-inch-diameter, 5 horse-power submersible pump, and a portable generator. A hose or pipe will convey the water away from the well and discharge it to the ground surface. The test will run up to 24 hours, depending on the yield of the well. After testing the pump will be removed and the well temporarily capped.

Applicant Name: Ormat Nevada Inc.

Project Location: Gabbs Valley, Mineral County, Nevada; T11N, R32E, Section 14 (within)

BLM Acres for the Project Area: <0.1 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number): The proposed action conforms to the Carson City Consolidated Resource Management Plan (May, 2001) Minerals and Energy Section 10 MIN-1, Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP, May 2001

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist
review:
initial in
appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety?		JP
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		CK DW
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]?		CJ DR
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		CJ
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		CS 3/14/14 DR
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		CJ
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office?		JP
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		CK
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		CJ
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)?		DR
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)?		JP
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)?		JP

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:

During ID Team review of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Stillwater Field Office

Planning Environmental Coordinator: Angelica Rose *AR 3/13/14*
Public Health and Safety/Grazing/Noxious Weeds: Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson/Jill Devaurs
Recreation/Wilderness/VRM/LWC: Dan Westermeyer
Wildlife/T&E (BLM Sensitive Species): Chris Kula
Archeology: Jason Wright/Kristin Bowen *JBW 3/13/14*
Wild Horses and Burros: Linda Appel
Soils: Linda Appel/Chelsy Simerson *CS 3/13/14*

RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:

Teresa J. Knutson
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Manager
Stillwater Field Office

6/3/2014
(date)

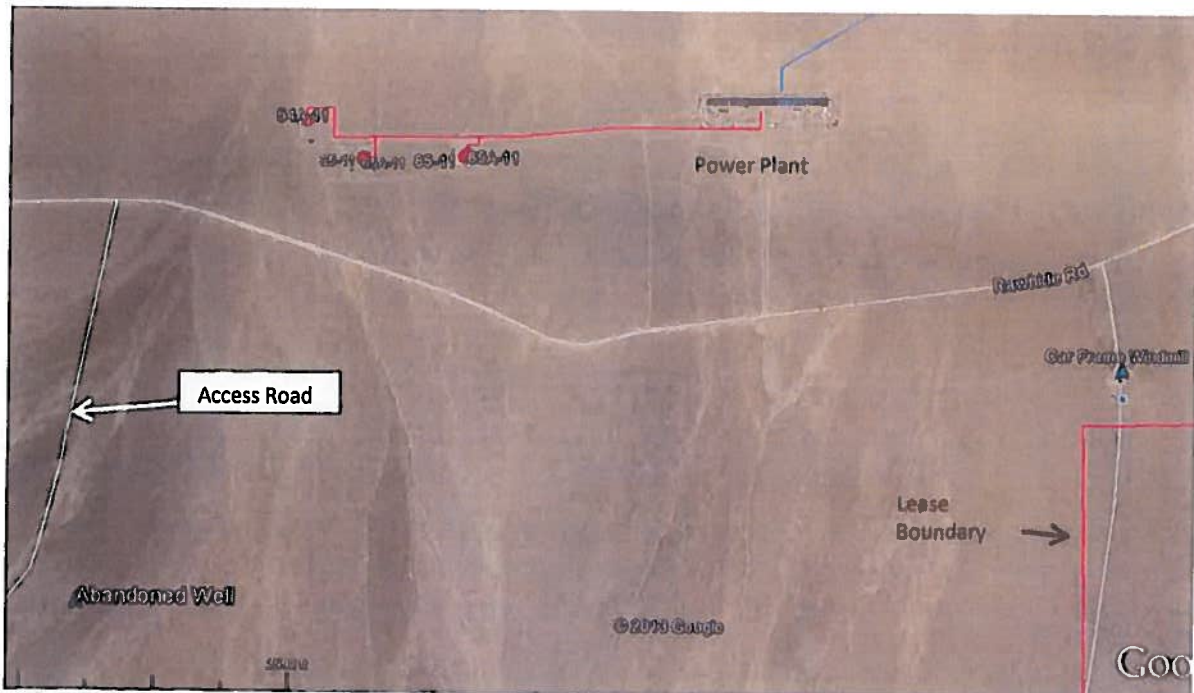


Figure 1: Abandoned well is located about 1 mile southwest of the Don Campbell production wells (red). The site can be accessed via an existing dirt road.

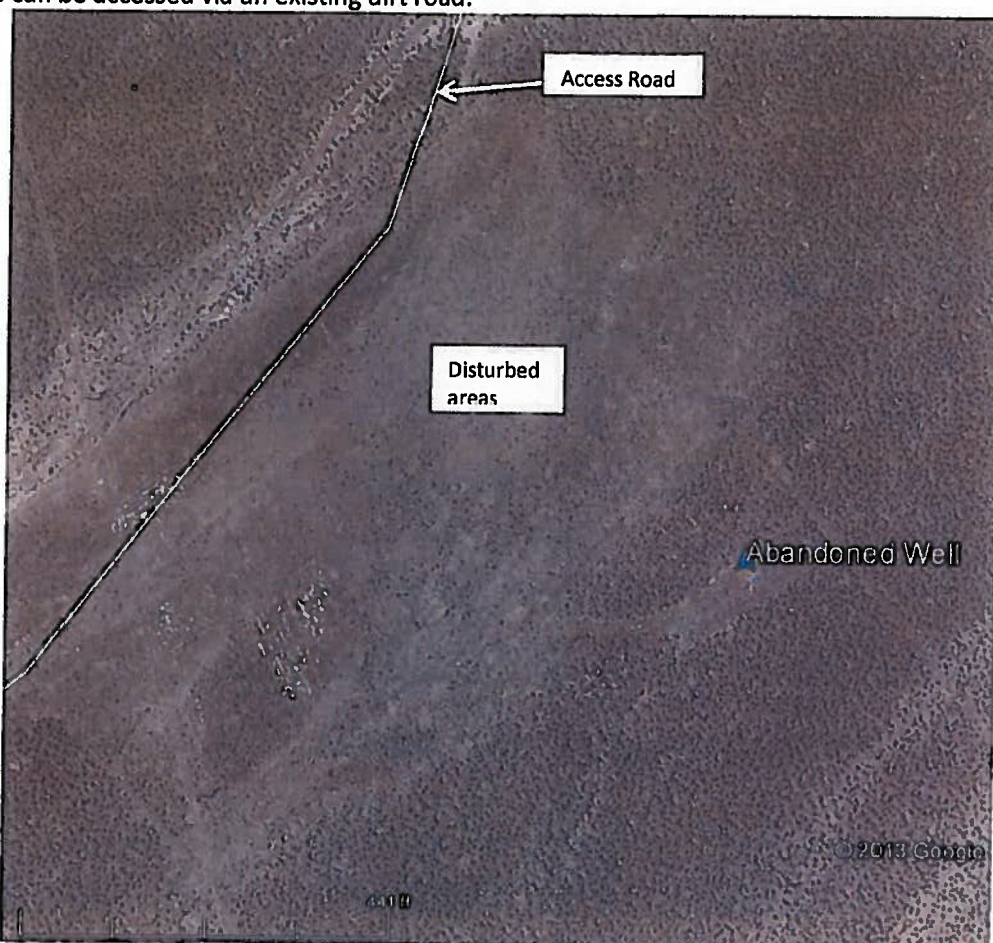


Figure 2: the well is located near a previously disturbed area that was fenced at one time and was likely used for holding cattle. A separate dirt road leads from the access road to the old well pad.



Figure 3: Looking northeast at old well casing and well pad. Don Campbell wells and power plant are in the distance.



Figure 4: Looking northwest at well casing with old fence visible near vehicle.